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Congressional Liaison

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The Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

My dear Senator Humphrey:

You asked in your letter of 27 January that I assure you this Agency brings no pressure to bear on American citizens with whom interviews are sought after visits to Eastern Europe. I can tell you most definitely that it is not CIA policy to embarrass or pressure any American citizen. If you care to provide me with the facts in this particular case, I will look into it and take appropriate steps if I find this policy has been violated.

As you correctly noted in responding to your constituent, these interviews are valuable to us. They are entirely voluntary, however, and if a returned traveler does not wish to be interviewed, he has every right to say no without fear of coercion or prejudice to future travel. I should very much like to be informed if one of my officers has in any way implied that this Agency would take action to block future travel of an interviewee.

I feel your letter was an accurate statement of our position, and I appreciate the manner in which the problem was handled. If I may be of further assistance, let me know.

Cordially,

/s/ Richard Helms

Richard Helms
Director

Letter to Senator Hubert H. Humphrey from the Director

CONCUR: _____
 Deputy Director for Intelligence **Date**

RJSn:ltb:fbr (2 February 1971)

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